## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 12652 182145Z ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS USCTB

PASS TO DOE

E.O.11652:XGDS-3
TAGS: PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: NSS WORKING GROUP MEETING
AUGUST 17, 1978 -- AGREEMENT ON BRACKETED COMPOSITE TEXT
OF ARTICLE I OF SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT.

CTB MESSAGE NO.305

1. SUMMARY: AT THE NATIONAL SEISMIC STATIONS (NSS) WORK-ING GROUP MEETING ON AUGUST 17, THE DELS DISCUSSED THE US DRAFT COMPOSITE TEXT FOR ARTICLE I OF THE SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT. AFTER SLIGHT REVISION OF THE PROPOSED LANGUAGE, DELS AGREED AD REFERENDUM ON A COMPOSITE TEXT WITH A FEW BRACKETS AND TWO FOOTNOTES. TEXT SET FORTH IN SEPTEL. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT IS AGREEMENT ON LANGUAGE REQUIRING THAT INPROVED STATIONS BE OPERATED CONTINUOUSLY AND THAT ALL THE DATA BE EXCHANGED. THE OTHER DELS ALSO OFFERED PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON OUR REVISED ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT OF PARAGRAPH 1 OF ARTICLE I OF SECRET

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THE TECHNICAL ANNEX. END SUMMARY.

2. FINCH (US) OPENED THE AUGUST 17, 1978, MEETING OF THE NSS WORKING GROUP BY REQUESTING FURTHER COMMENTS ON THE US DRAFT COMPOSITE TEXT FOR ARTICLE I OF THE SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT, TABLED AT THE AUGUST 16 NSS WORKING GROUP MEETING (CTB NO.300). TARASOV (USSR) SAID

THAT THE SOVIET DELEGATION HAD STUDIED THE DRAFT MORE CAREFULLY AND IN GREATER DETAIL, AND HE THEN BEGAN OFFERING COMMENTS, ON A PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH BASIS, ON THE LANGUAGE OF THE DRAFT. AFTER DISCUSSION AND A FEW CHANGES, THE DELS AGREED AD REFERENDUM ON A COMPOSITE TEXT OF THE ARTICLE. THIS TEXT INCLUDES A FEW BRACKETS AND TWO FOOTNOTES REFLECTING THE NEED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

- 3. THE FIRST FOOTNOTE REFLECTS THE QUESTION OF UK PARTICIPATION IN THE NSS DATA EXCHANGE. DELS AGREED TO USE THE WORD "PARTIES" IN THE TEXT, WITH A FOOTNOTE RESERVING POSITIONS REGARDING THE EXTENT OF UK PARTICIPATION. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO RETURN TO THE QUESTION OF APPROPRIATE TERMINOLOGY LATER.
- 4. THE SOVIET DEL'S ACCEPTANCE OF PARAGRAPHS 3(A) AND 4, TOGETHER WITH THEIR QUALIFIED ACCEPTANCE OF PARAGRAPH 3(B), SEEMS TO INDICATE THEIR READINESS TO ACQUIESCE IN OUR VIEW THAT THE TWO PHASES OF THE EXCHANGE OF SEISMIC DATA SHOULD BE RELATED TO EACH INDIVIDUAL NSS, RATHER THAN BE DESCRIBED AS GENERAL STAGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT.
- 5. TARASOV SAID THAT THE SOVIET DEL WOULD WANT TO RETURN TO PARAGRAPH 3(B) AS THE TECHNICAL ANNEX IS PREPARED. HE SECRET

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NOTED THAT THE MEANING OF SUCH TERMS AS "AGREED SITE" AND "EQUIPMENT AS AGREED" WOULD DEPEND ON THE TECHNICAL ANNEX AND WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE ANNEX. THE DELS DECIDED TO EXPRESS THEIR SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON PARAGRAPH 3(B) BY LETTING THE US-DRAFTED LANGUAGE STAND AND PLACING THE SOVIET RESERVATION IN A FOOTNOTE INDICATING THE NEED TO RETURN TO THIS PARAGRAPH LATER.

- 6. PARAGRAPH 4 REFLECTS AGREEMENT AMONG THE DELS THAT EACH STATION WILL BE OPERATED CONTINUOUSLY DURING PHASE TWO, USING IMPROVED EQUIPMENT, AND THAT ALL THE DATA WILL BE EXCHANGED. THIS REPRESENTS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT OF THE PROGRESS MADE ON NSS SO FAR IN THIS ROUND.
- 7. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, FINCH ASKED FOR COMMENTS ON THE US REVISED ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT OF PARAGRAPH 1 OF ARTICLE I OF THE TECHNICAL ANNEX, TABLED AT THE AUGUST 16 NSS MEETING. TARASOV SAID THAT THE SOVIET DEL HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO STUDY THE NEW PARAGRAPH FULLY, BUT THAT MOST OF THE IDEAS EMBODIED IN IT SEEMED ACCEPTABLE. HE NOTED THE PROVISION REQUIRING THE IMPROVED SEISMIC EQUIPMENT TO BE

INSTALLED AT ALL NSS WITHIN 24 MONTHS AFTER THE AGREEMENT ENTERS INTO FORCE, AND -- PRESUMABLY ALLUDING TO THE QUESTION OF TREATY DURATION -- STATED THAT THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AFTER OTHER KEY ISSUES HAD BEEN RESOLVED. FINALLY, HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET DEL HAD NOT CHANGED ITS POSITION WITH RESPECT TO ARRAY STATIONS. JOHNSON

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## Message Attributes

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